

Forestry or tree farming is another important source of income to many farmers in Wayne County and the potential is unlimited. In 1961, forestry and its related products provided \$128,605 income to the county's farmers. This had increased to \$1,014,416 by 1966. Most farmers have the land and a stand of timber on them. A little effort and time on their part could produce a reasonable return. Of course, forestry is a long term proposition, but a return of five percent on such an investment is estimated to be possible by the N. C. Forest Service.

In summary, agriculture will continue to dominate the county's economy. But in order for it to maintain a satisfactory rate of growth, more diversification of crops and products produced must be initiated throughout the county. There is great potential in livestock production which should be more thoroughly exploited. The demand for more food will increase at the same rate as the population increases. Of equal importance is efficiency in production methods. The cost of production is rising due to the cost of new machines and increased labor wages. Therefore, wise management of farm operations will become more critical.

However, it should be pointed out that diversification of crops and products produced has its limits. Every individual farmer cannot diversify into every field. Each should select three or four, depending on farm size and his own skills and capabilities, different major crops or products and specialize to insure a year round, stable operation.